


# DOEPA – PARISH ANNUAL REPORT

## for the 2024 Diocesan Assembly

Parish name and Address	Photo
<p><b>Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church</b>                      5501 Old Locust Lane                      Harrisburg, PA 17109</p> <p>www.CTSHBG.org</p>	
Clergy	
<p>V. Rev. Stephen Vernak, Pastor                      Rt. Rev. Daniel Kovalak, Attached                      Dn. John Shingara, Attached</p>	
Committees/Societies	
<p><b>ADULT EDUCATION MINISTRY</b>, {3 Hierarchs}, education, outreach, guest speakers as well as weekly programs during Advent and Lent, <i>meets quarterly</i> (Weeknight evening)</p> <p><b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>, (male age 7+), worship, serve in altar for <i>every service</i> (Sunday and other days)</p> <p><b>BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP</b>, {St Jerome}, education, fellowship, <i>meets quarterly</i> (gen Sunday afternoon)</p> <p><b>CHARITABLE GIVING</b>, includes Food Baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas, Food Bank/channels, Seminary Family sponsorship &amp; Christmas gifts, Souper Bowl Sunday, Christmas angels, meeting requests made of the Church</p> <p><b>CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE</b>, training &amp; background checks of personnel, <i>meets as needed</i></p> <p><b>CHOIR</b>, {St Romanos}, worship, sings for every service, <i>practices weekly</i> (Wednesday evening)</p> <p><b>CHURCH SCHOOL</b>, education of youth and inquirers (with Orthodoxy 101), meets weekly through the school year for instruction following liturgy (Sunday) Teachers meet quarterly (Saturday)</p> <p><b>FEAST ADORNMENT</b>, decorate for major feasts and events in the church and hall, flowers, change and clean votives and cloths</p> <p><b>FOCA</b>, (Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America) (aka “O” club), {St Andrew}, fellowship, giving, excursions, scholarships, family game nights and movie nights, <i>meets monthly</i> (gen Thursday evening)</p> <p><b>GREETERS</b>, fellowship, greet new arrivals, distribute bulletin for liturgy, monitor sanctuary doors as appropriate (Sunday)</p> <p><b>GROUNDS &amp; MAINTENANCE</b>, routine maintenance (i.e. light bulbs, etc) and grounds keeping (i.e. trimming, raking, etc), <i>meets monthly</i> (Saturday)</p> <p><b>VIP MINISTRY</b>, keep in touch with parishioners and friends in hospital or home bound, send cards, call, personal visit.</p> <p><b>LADIES’ ALTAR GUILD</b>, {St Mary}, oversee liturgical vestments &amp; textiles, giving, fellowship, nut roll baking, coordinates church service fellowship refreshment provision, <i>meets monthly</i> (Monday evening)</p> <p><b>MEN’S CLUB</b>, {St Alexis}, fellowship, giving, provide meals, <i>meets monthly</i> (Monday evening)</p> <p><b>MOM’S GROUP</b>, {St Monica}, fellowship, giving, meets during the school year</p> <p><b>OCCGH</b>, ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES OF GREATER HARRISBURG, {St Herman}, outreach, fellowship, giving, volunteer opportunities, <i>meets monthly</i> (Weekday evening)</p>	

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**PAN-ORTHODOX BIBLE STUDY**, education, fellowship, downtown Harrisburg, *meets weekly* (Wednesday noon)

**PARISH COUNCIL**, elected church vestry, governance, *meets monthly* (Thursday evening)

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**, major maintenance, repairs and assessment of projects, *meets as needed*

**PROSPHORA BAKERS**, {Ss. Spyridon and Nicodemus}, worship, bake bread used for communion, *meets bi-monthly* (gen Wednesday)

**READERS**, worship, read pre/post communion prayers, epistle for every liturgy, vespers (Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday and other feast days)

**RELIGIOUS STORE**, {St Mary}, sales desk, inventory products, store open after liturgy (Sunday)

**LUNCH BUNCH**, fellowship, restaurant social activity, *meets monthly* (weekday noon)

**SLAVIC + FOOD FEST**, outreach, fundraising, fellowship, provide ethnic foods made from scratch to the public, (seasonal summer & early autumn)(Fest is 1<sup>st</sup> full week-end in October)

**YOUTH CHOIR**, worship, sings for some services, practices 2 Sundays following liturgy

**YOUTH GROUP**, (Junior “O”), (aka “Teens”), (12+), fellowship, volunteering, youth winter/summer camps, week end youth retreats, *meets monthly*

**YOUTH VESTRY**, (12+), worship, shadow adult vestry members with duties *during liturgy* (bells, microphone, etc) (Sunday)

### Since January 2023

#### Highlights of Top Three Activities

1. Adult Education (Book Club, Trivia Night, Bible Study, Orthodoxy 101, Advent Series, Great Lent Series)
2. Slavic + Food Fest
3. Celebrated our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Oct 28, 2023

### Outreach and Charitable Activities

Monthly Outreach Budget as part of Parish Council

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thanksgiving Food Outreach

Angel Tree Project – over 70 wrapped presents distributed to underprivileged children in our community

Seminary family support

Bethesda Mission Women’s Shelter – serve lunch (monthly)

FOCA Back to School Backpacks

Rebuilding Together Harrisburg Community Day

### Major Challenges Faced

Growing pains – parking, space in church/fellowship hall

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### Upcoming Special Events/ Anniversaries – January 2024 to December 2024

Hosting 2024 Diocesan Assembly  
 Annual Parish Meeting – Feb 2024  
 Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Grant Application – March 2024  
 Fr. Daniel Ressetar Memorial Bell Campaign - <https://www.ctshbg.org/ressetarmemorial>

**Median Donation for 2023** (Example: For the data set 1, 1, 2, 5, 6, 6, 9 the median is 5  
 For the data set 1, 1, 2, 6, 6, 9 the median is 4. Take the mean of 2 and 6 or,  $(2+6)/2 = 4$ .)

Data not complete – will send update when all entries are completed.

#### As of Dec 14, 2023

**Active Members Count**  
 Total Adults: 258  
 Total Children: 101  
**Total Souls: 359**

**Children (under 18)**

#### January 1 thru December 1, 2023

**Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Attendance** 180

**Average Sunday Divine Liturgy Communicants** Unknown – guess is 100

**Average Saturday Vespers Attendance** 40

**Number of Catechumens**  
 Catechumens: 10  
 Inquirers: 12

#### January 1, thru December 1, 2023

**Baptisms** 8

**Funerals** 2

**Marriages** 2

**Receptions into Orthodoxy** 5

**Church School/Number Enrolled** 75

**Adult Education/Number Enrolled** 10-50 (depending on offering)